

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

GOOD WATER RIM TRAIL

DOI-BLM-UT-G020-2020-0018-EA

April 2020

Location: Emery County, Utah

Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501
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BLM



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GOOD WATER RIM TRAIL

DOI-BLM-UT-G020-2020-0018-EA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to disclose and analyze the environmental consequences of authorizing, delineating, improving, and providing future maintenance to the proposed Good Water Rim Trail. The trail is primarily intended for hiking and bicycle use. Additional improvements include creating and installing informational kiosks, installing three vault toilets and developing parking areas to accommodate recreation use. This EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of a proposed action or alternative. This EA assists the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in determining whether any “significant” impacts could result from the analyzed actions. “Significance” is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a statement of “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI). If the decision maker determines that this project has “significant” impacts following the analysis in the EA, then an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the selected alternative or another alternative. A Decision Record (DR), and a FONSI statement, documents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in “significant” environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the Price Field Office Resource Management Plan (October 2008).

BACKGROUND

The approximately 15-mile long Good Water Rim Trail is located in Emery County, Utah, along the northern rim of Good Water Canyon. The trail is within the Buckhorn/Wedge Recreation Management Zone (RMZ), the San Rafael Swell Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area (Dingell Act 2019). The trail is set back from the edge of the rim of Good Water Canyon, which serves as the boundary between the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area and the Sid’s Mountain Wilderness.

The trail has been user-created or emerged on the landscape despite no formal BLM authorizations. The rim of Good Water Canyon offers dramatic views of the canyon and the San Rafael River from cliffs towering over 1200 ft above the canyon floor. The Wedge Overlook, at one trailhead, is popular for camping and sightseeing. Over time, visitors have accessed remote reaches of the canyon rim via the trail, often from the dispersed campsites that are connected by the trail. In recent years, the trail has been highly publicized on popular applications and guides as a “must see” destination for mountain bikers, primarily, as well as trail runners, and hikers. As result, it has become a valuable part of Emery County’s recreation economy, and a highly sought-after recreation experience for local users and visitors alike. In January 2018, a trail counter was installed to monitor usage of this user created trail. The counter was installed midway along the trail to prevent

data tampering from those visiting the Wedge/Little Grand Canyon Overlook. In 2018, 3,050 users were recorded on the trail and in 2019 3,064 users were recorded. Most of the use occurs during April and May with a minimum of 600 users per month. Daily usage ranges between 50 and 100 users per day during the weekends of April and May.

The trail disturbance is in an area of known occupied habitat of the federally-listed endangered San Rafael Cactus, and within modeled habitat of the federally-listed threatened Mexican Spotted Owl. As the trail has not been formally-designated, it has not received any formal delineation, maintenance, or signage. Unmaintained trail damage from increased use often leads users to deviate from the initial path. Braiding, trail widening, and unsafe spurs typically develop. This type of trail proliferation presents a threat to the habitat of the federally-listed species.

The challenge of managing user-created trails is to balance the demand expressed by users on the landscape and the reality that users will continue to seek out the highly-publicized experience of the trail, with appropriate natural resource protection. As a user-created trail, the preferred route for users has essentially been chosen and the landscape has already been disturbed. Maintaining the existing location would preserve the recreational experience users have come to expect, and the addition of formal trail management and mitigation (including delineation, markers, and educational signage) would deter trail proliferation and guide users away from undisturbed areas within the vicinity. The Price Field Office (PFO) believes it is prudent to consider a proposal that would designate the Good Water Rim Trail and allow for development of appropriate recreational infrastructure to facilitate proper use, while protecting resources.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The BLM's purpose for the proposed action is to provide appropriate recreation experiences and benefits along the rim of Good Water Canyon, while protecting other public lands resources, specifically the San Rafael Cactus and the Mexican Spotted Owl. The proposed action would also enhance stewardship of the public lands through active recreation management involving appropriate interpretation and education.

The need for the proposed action is to respond to the public's desire for more recreational opportunities while protecting sensitive resources. The existing trail has impacted and/or has the potential to impact resources in ever greater extents on public lands in the future, specifically, the endangered San Rafael Cactus and the threatened Mexican Spotted Owl. Signing and delineating the trail would focus use on the planned and hardened trail and help protect sensitive resources off trail, where users often find themselves due to poor delineation, lack of signage, and poor trail design.

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)

All alternatives being considered are in conformance with the Price Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved in October 2008. The following management decisions are consistent with the Price Field Office RMP:

- REC-7: Address non-motorized and motorized recreation trails in activity level plans (e.g., designation and/or development of routes/trail systems, maintenance, how the trails relate to the ERMA, SRMA, and specific RMZs, etc.) (Page 104).
- REC-8: Allow mountain biking on all routes designated for OHV use and on June's Bottom and Black Dragon Canyon routes and other routes or areas designated for mountain bike use. Designation of additional mountain bike areas or routes will occur through activity plans (Page 104).
- REC-14: Conduct all recreation management activities and developments in the SRMA in support of the individual SRMA goals and objectives (Page 105).
- REC-46: Specific recreation management direction for the San Rafael Swell SRMA is contained in Appendix R-9. This includes direction for the following recreation management components: Market Strategy; Market; Niche; Management Goals; Management Objectives; Primary Activities; Experiences, and Benefits (Page 109).
- REC-49: Recreation management [in the Buckhorn/Wedge RMZ] will focus on sustaining natural resources while meeting social and economic needs (Page 110).

The Price Field Office RMP defines activity plan as a "Site-specific plan which precedes actual development (Page 155).

RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, OR OTHER PLANS

The proposed action is consistent with the Emery County General Plan Update (2016), which recognizes traditionally non-motorized trail uses (i.e., biking, hiking, equestrian trail riding) as important recreational uses. As the trail area is already defined and in use, it has been determined through GIS data that it does not enter WSA or Wilderness areas, and therefore is in compliance with the Dingell Act designations.

Secretarial Order 3376, *Increasing Recreational Opportunities Through the Use of Electric Bikes* (August 29, 2019), encourages agencies within the Department of the Interior, including the BLM, to expand e-bike opportunities. This proposal considers Secretarial Order 3376, and addresses e-bikes via currently applicable regulations.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

An Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) consisting of resource specialists in the BLM Price Field Office reviewed the proposed action in 2014. Planning and inventory efforts were initiated at that time, along with the collection and evaluation of initial data. To conduct a collaborative planning effort, the BLM sought input from Native American tribes, as well as from the general public. Letters outlining the proposed action and request were sent to Native American tribes on October 2, 2014. The ID Team did a second review of the proposed action in 2018. The ID Team identified potential impacts to resources by utilizing office records, geographic information system (GIS) data, and site visits to the Good Water Rim Trail. EA DOI-BLM-G020-2018-0007 had a public comment period in March 2019, however the EA was withdrawn to evaluate the proposal in light of the new designations established by the Dingell Act. The BLM PFO maintains the public comments and

responses from this period on file, and they were considered and incorporated into the preparation of this EA. It was determined the trail did not enter any wilderness or WSA area and the project was reinitiated with EA DOI-BLM-UT-G020-2020-0018. The results of the ID Team review are contained in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist, included as Appendix A.

The following issues were identified through the ID Team review and scoping process and are briefly described below. The context for these issues is brought forth in Chapter 3, and potential impacts are addressed in Chapter 4.

RECREATION

Biking, hiking and running are popular activities within the project area and there are currently no designated single-track trails nearby. Following designation, public access to these lands may increase.

PLANTS: ENDANGERED SAN RAFAEL CACTUS

San Rafael cactus (*Pediocactus despainii*) are known to occur within the project area. Designating the trail and developing parking areas could reduce the habitat availability and quality for the species.

WILDLIFE: MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL

Habitat models indicate that suitable habitat for the Mexican spotted owl occurs within 0.5 mile of the project area. Designating the trail and developing parking areas could reduce the habitat availability and quality for the species.

SUMMARY

This chapter has presented the purpose and need of the proposed project, as well as the relevant issues, i.e., those elements of the human environment that could be affected by the implementation of the proposed project. In order to meet the purpose and need of the proposed project in a way that resolves the issues, the BLM has considered and/or developed a range of action alternatives. These alternatives are presented in Chapter 2. The potentially affected existing environment is presented in chapter 3. The potential environmental impacts or consequences resulting from the implementation of each alternative considered in detail are analyzed in Chapter 4 for each of the identified issues.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the range of alternatives developed to meet the purpose and need for this project and, to address resource issues identified from public comments and the BLM Price Field Office ID Team. Three alternatives were brought forward for detailed analysis. These alternatives are presented below.

ALTERNATIVE A – DESIGNATE THE GOOD WATER RIM TRAIL

Under Alternative A, BLM would designate the Good Water Rim Trail as open to hiking, running, mountain bikes, and class 1 e-bikes¹. No motorized use outside class 1, e-bikes would be allowed. The inclusion of class 1 e-bikes is in consideration of Secretarial Order 3376. Secretarial Order 3376 is intended to increase recreational opportunities for all Americans, especially those with physical limitations, and to encourage the enjoyment of lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior.

This trail would have the following features:

- The trail would be approximately 15.5 miles long with a maximum travel surface of four feet wide.
- The trail would be open year-round for general use. Timing limitations may be implemented on Special Recreation Permits, refer to Design Features in Appendix C.
- The trail would allow for two-way traffic. Special Recreation Permits may have additional limitations including but not limited to direction of travel and passing zones. These limitations would be on a case-by-case basis as determined by the resource specialists and authorized officer.
- There would be up to a 10-foot maintenance corridor (five feet from current trail alignment centerline on either side or until the edge of Good Water Canyon, whichever comes first) for the trail. This maintenance corridor would allow trail maintenance and the ability to move trail tread within the corridor to provide for a sustainable tread if segments of the trail become entrenched and begin channeling water or if use patterns or “flow” can be improved in a manner that improves experience and helps keep users on the trail
- If a trail reroute is necessary within the 10-foot maintenance corridor (five feet from current trail alignment centerline on either side or until the edge of Good Water Canyon, whichever comes first), the BLM will conduct surveys for San Rafael Cactus five feet from the centerline on both sides of the new trail alignment with the intent to avoid existing cactus. Consultation would be reinitiated if needed.
- Up to 15 scenic pullouts would be designated to protect sensitive resources including wildlife and prevent further damage to the San Rafael Cactus in other areas along the trail.

¹ A class 1 e-bike is defined as a bicycle equipped with an electric motor not exceeding 750 watts (one horsepower), that only provides assistance when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the speed of the bicycle reaches 20 miles per hour.

- Where trail braiding is occurring or might occur in the future, the BLM would keep open the most sustainable trail. The other trails would be raked out by hand and unobtrusive efforts to delineate the main trail would be undertaken. If determined appropriate by the authorized officer, the disturbed area would be re-seeded with a native seed mix and biological soil crust would be spread over the disturbed area. Signs and other appropriate management techniques would be used to keep further disturbances from occurring in these areas.
- During construction and maintenance, the BLM will use “The Five Essential Elements of Sustainable Trails” derived from the International Mountain Bicycling Association’s publication *Trail Solutions: IMBA’s Guide to Building Sweet Singletracks* (Webber, 2004).
- A sign plan would be designed and implemented. The sign plan will include directional, informational, and interpretive signage specific to the trail and area.

The Good Water Rim Trail would feature informational kiosks and other helpful information sites as follows:

- Informational kiosks would be placed at three key access points on the trail. These locations are approximately at both ends of the trail and in the middle. The kiosks may include the following information, but is not limited to:
 - Permitted use and e-bike classifications
 - Trail etiquette related to single track trails
 - Appropriate recreational activities
 - How to minimize impacts to sensitive resources (i.e. LNT techniques)
 - San Rafael Cactus information
 - Mexican Spotted Owl information
 - Desert Bighorn sheep information
 - Preventing the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species
 - Locations of the scenic pullouts
- Information regarding the Good Water Rim Trail may be posted at other appropriate locations, for example, the two existing kiosks in the area.

Access to the Good Water Rim Trail would feature the development of three parking areas as follows (Figure 2):

- Parking area 1, which would be new ground disturbance, would have a maximum area of 0.1 acre.
- Parking area 2, which is existing disturbance, would have a maximum area of 0.40 acre.
- Parking area 3, which is existing disturbance, would have a maximum area of 0.13 acre.
- Each of the parking areas would feature one of the new informational kiosks as described above.
- Each parking area would have either a single-vault or a double-vault CXT toilet installed.
- Maintenance on these three parking areas would be allowed as necessary.
- Each of the parking areas would be delineated with boulders or pole fencing and include signage to additional parking areas. Developments would incorporate the design features identified in Appendix C.

A portion of the Good Water Rim Trail crosses lands administered by the Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) (Figure 2). Parking lot 2 exists on SITLA-administered lands within existing disturbance. The BLM would continue its agreement with SITLA, allowing BLM to manage and develop the recreation opportunities throughout the immediate area including administration of the proposed trail.

ALTERNATIVE B –DESIGNATE THE GOOD WATER RIM, NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL

Under Alternative B, BLM would designate Good Water Rim Trail as a non-motorized trail open to hiking, running, and biking. This alternative would retain the trail features and design, educational signage, access points, and resource protections outlined in the proposed alternative (Alternative A), with the exception that Class 1 e-bikes would not be allowed.

ALTERNATIVE C – NO ACTION

Under the No Action Alternative, the Good Water Rim Trail would not be designated, and formal management of the trail would not be authorized. While BLM would monitor trail use and seek to deter unauthorized trail riding, the popularity and publicity of the trail would continue to attract visitors who may seek to access the canyon rim and the existing trail disturbance from unmonitored points, dispersed campsites, and new user-created trails.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED

The BLM Price Field Office ID Team considered closing the Good Water Rim Trail to all use and reclaiming the trail system back to its natural state, and to aid in enforcing this closure, develop and implement Supplemental Rules giving law enforcement the tools necessary to enforce the closure. However, based on observed use, public input, and publicly available data from mountain bike websites and apps, the Good Water Rim Trail is shown to be one of the most used bicycle trails in the Price Field Office. As it would take several years to develop and implement any Supplemental Rules to enforce a closure, and because it is reasonable to assume that these unmanaged social trails could further harm the San Rafael Cactus populations and habitat, the Price Field Office ID Team determined that this alternative did not meet the needs of the recreating public or address BLM's responsibility for protecting the viability of the San Rafael Cactus, and was therefore eliminated from further analysis.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter presents the potentially affected existing environment (i.e., the physical, biological, social, and economic values and resources) of the impact area as identified in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist (Appendix A-1 and presented in Chapter 1 of this assessment). This chapter provides the baseline for comparison of impacts/consequences described in Chapter 4.

GENERAL SETTING

The proposed trail is located along the rim of Good Water Canyon, within the Buckhorn/Wedge Recreation Management Zone of the San Rafael Swell Special Recreation Management Area. Most visitors use mountain bikes to ride the proposed trail, which affords long-range views of Colorado Plateau country, including Good Water Canyon and the Little Grand Canyon. The topography is reasonably flat on the canyon rim, but drops off precipitously to the canyon bottom, a thousand feet below. The biome is typical pinion-juniper with a sparse understory and rocky soil.

RESOURCES/ISSUES BROUGHT FORWARD FOR ANALYSIS

RECREATION

Based on observed use, public input, and publicly available, user-generated data, the Good Water Rim Trail is one of the most used trails for hiking and biking in the Price Field Office. Sections of the trail are enjoyed by campsite occupants, while the entire trail is typically enjoyed by bicycle users. Traffic counters have indicated that average annual use in recent years exceeds 3,000 users per year. The proposed project would incorporate approximately 15.5 miles of trail on BLM lands within The Wedge, which is currently being disturbed by numerous unauthorized user-created trails that span across BLM and SITLA land. The larger Wedge area, roughly 16,000 acres, is defined by the canyon rims to the south and east, and main County roads. The Wedge is one of the most popular visitor areas in the PFO and it is estimated that it received over 28,000 visitors in 2019. Approving the proposed action would authorize the trail, allow its adoption into the BLM system of public trails, and permit its annual maintenance and monitoring.

Winter-use grazing allotments exist at The Wedge, and grazing cattle compound disturbances by creating new trails and braiding old trails with the existing system of unauthorized trails. In addition, because the trail is not currently authorized, trail maps and information regarding resource protection for T&E plants and animals, such as signs and kiosks, have not been installed, and trail users are commonly confused about the area and recreation opportunities.

PLANTS: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED OR CANDIDATE SPECIES

The proposed project is located within suitable and occupied habitat for San Rafael cactus (*Pediocactus despainii*), a small, barrel-like or globose cactus that occurs primarily on BLM-administered lands managed by the PFO. This species is currently listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The species range is centered on the San Rafael Swell and extends into southwestern Emery County. It is known from several geologic formations; the Carmel, the

Sinbad member of the Moenkopi, the Brushy Basin member of the Morrison formation, Mancos shale and others. No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

San Rafael cacti are perennial plants but are typically only above ground during the growing season. When temperatures increase in mid-February or early March when rainfall is adequate, cacti emerge from below the ground surface to flower. Flowering occurs from mid-April through mid-May and fruits are set in mid-May to June. The plants will shrink back into the ground during the cold season and remain underground until the following spring.

Populations of the species occur primarily on lands administered by BLM PFO. Monitoring efforts and presence/absence surveys for San Rafael cacti have been on-going since 1990 within the PFO. According to the repeat inventory data collected through 2018, there are over 9,000 known individuals throughout the range of the cactus located in Emery and Wayne counties. Based on known occurrences, geology, and precipitation, the suitable habitat in the Wedge Population is approximately 13,500 acres.

A 10-foot wide maintenance corridor has been proposed for the Good Water Rim Trail. This corridor was inventoried in the spring of 2014 as part of the evaluation of the trail. Two hundred cacti were observed within the 10-foot wide maintenance corridor. The majority of plants were in good condition and several were reproductive.

WILDLIFE: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED OR CANDIDATE SPECIES

The Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) was listed as a threatened species in 1993. The MSO is the widest ranging of the three spotted owl sub-species. Its range extends from the southern Rocky Mountains in Colorado and the Colorado Plateau in southern Utah through Arizona and New Mexico, and into Mexico. The Price Field Office is within the Colorado Plateau Ecological Management Units (EMU).

The MSO Recovery Plan (2012) described owl canyon habitat as deep, steep-walled canyons and hanging canyons. Nesting and roosting in Utah occur in caves and on ledges in this canyon habitat. The Recovery Plan recognizes two models, the 1997 Willey-Spotskey's MSO Habitat Model and the 2000 Willey-Spotskey's MSO Habitat Model, to be used as tools to identify and protect MSO habitat. Using the 2000 model, there is 1,511 acres of modeled habitat within a 0.5 miles buffer from the Good Water Rim Trail because it includes the upland areas on the Wedge. The 1997 model is limited to the canyons and indicates 770 acres of model habitat within a 0.5-mile buffer of the trail. Suitable nesting habitat is limited to the canyons, as shown by the Lewis model which indicates high value habitat in a narrow band along the rim of Good Water Canyon.

The Good Water Canyon itself offers approximately 446 acres of limited and isolated potential habitat for MSO occupancy with the best foraging habitat being centered within the main stem of the Good Water Canyon and some potential nesting habitat located within portions of the side canyons. The Good Water Rim Trail itself is located above these habitats and follows along the rim of the canyon for 15.5 miles. Habitat directly associated with the trail consists of stands of pinyon-juniper, rocky soils, and very little vegetation for supporting a viable prey base for MSO.

No designated critical habitat and no Protected Activity Centers (PACs) are located on or near any portion of the Good Water Rim Trail. The nearest active PACs to the proposed area are the Trail Canyon, Big Canyon and Rain Canyon PAC located approximately 40 miles to the northeast of the

Good Water Canyon area. No sightings have been documented in the last 10 years, however no surveys have been conducted on either BLM or State lands within the proposed area.

DRAFT

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This chapter presents the expected effects from implementing the alternatives to the resources of concern. Direct effects are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. Indirect effects are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable.

GENERAL ANALYSIS ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDELINES

Authorizing the Good Water Rim Trail could lead to a moderate increase in bicycle use in the area. However, it is not anticipated that use would increase beyond current trends. It is assumed that Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) would be issued, on a discretionary basis. The inclusion of class 1 e-bikes would have similar impacts to traditional bicycles.

Studies have found that impacts from class 1 e-bikes and traditional mountain bikes are not significantly different (IMBA, 2015). There are many misconceptions of what constitutes a class 1 e-bike and perceptions of e-bikes vary (Chaney et al.). Class 1 e-bikes are operable in the same manner as other types of bicycles and in many cases, they appear virtually indistinguishable from other types of bicycles.

ALTERNATIVE A – DESIGNATE THE GOOD WATER RIM TRAIL

Under Alternative A, the trail would be designated to allow bicycle and class 1 e-bike use, visitor parking lots would be created, toilets would be installed, and kiosks built highlighting maps and facts regarding Threatened and Endangered plant and animal species. The following are the impacts expected from the implementation of the proposed action to the resources of concern.

RECREATION

Under Alternative A, authorizing approximately 15.5 miles of trail would provide a positive impact to recreationists seeking these opportunities in the Good Water Rim area. The trail would enable visitors to experience portions of the Good Water Rim that would otherwise be difficult to access, especially in a linear fashion. The existing single-track trail, which would not be redesigned, varies from easy to intermediate in difficulty, thus appealing to a broad population of recreationists and providing for family friendly experiences. Providing appropriately authorized and managed recreation opportunities may increase visitation and would in turn bring more economic benefits to Carbon and Emery counties. The inclusion of e-bikes may increase the number of users on the trail and may increase the number of same-direction passes. This may result in more user interactions and could result in a perception of crowding and a less satisfactory trail experience. This could displace some users seeking less trafficked trails.

Designation and maintenance of the trail would provide visitors with the confidence of knowing they are on an official BLM-managed trail. If designated, the Good Water Rim Trail would include scenic pull outs, signage, education, and the opportunities to be guided, etc. on the trail. Additionally, social trails from recreationists and cattle would be reclaimed, leading to an improved

trail experience. Parking would be limited to designated parking areas and vault toilets would be provided to help manage human health and safety concerns in the area.

PLANTS: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED OR CANDIDATE SPECIES

The 2014 inventory of the proposed project documented 200 cacti within approximately five feet of the center line. If the entire trail widens to the estimated four feet distance (two feet on either side of the center line), approximately 75 cacti have a high probability for being negatively impacted and a majority could be directly impacted (removed). In 2015 and 2018, the proposed parking areas were surveyed for presence of San Rafael cactus. At parking area 1, three cacti were located within the disturbance boundary. No cacti were located within or near the disturbance boundaries of parking areas 2 or 3 (details in the Biological Assessment). If the parking areas are constructed as proposed, three cacti could be directly impacted (removed). However, limiting parking to the designated parking areas is expected to reduce the amount of soil disturbance and negative impacts to cacti and suitable habitat compared to the no action.

Effects from Fugitive dust could occur from the dust created from mountain bikes, hikers, and trail runners using the Good Water Rim Trail. It is expected that the effect would be minimal due to the nature of the trail surface. The trail is generally covered with rock pavement with interspersed spots that pass through bare soil. Activities authorized for the Good Water Rim Trail (biking, hiking, trail running) could generate a dust plume that could drift onto the vegetation within the 10-foot maintenance corridor in areas where the trail passes through bare soil. The use of e-bikes has been shown to have similar effects to the trails surface. Studies have found that impacts from class 1 e-bikes and traditional mountain bikes are not significantly different (IMBA, 2015). Therefore, the effects to the habitat from trail widening or dust are similar to Alternative B.

Use of the trail has the potential to introduce and spread non-native plants in the project area. Currently, non-native plants in the Wedge area have been limited to disturbed areas. The disturbances within the 10-foot maintenance corridor have not resulted in the spread of non-native vegetation, and it is anticipated that the encroachment of non-native vegetation into the corridor would be minimal. Under this action, weeds would be monitored and controlled as part of the SRP permitting and monitoring efforts.

Construction, maintenance, and visitor use have the potential to modify the trail, creating additional surface disturbance and erosion that result in soil loss. Maintenance of the trail is a necessary and unavoidable impact in order to provide a clear route for trail users. One goal of trail construction and maintenance is to provide a trail only wide enough to accommodate the intended use. The Good Water Rim trail currently has an average of 3 feet of disturbance. The trail is purposefully narrow, winding around trees to limit the off-trail use. At the maximum width, BLM will allow for 4 feet of disturbance with the typical travel surface of 2 feet. Visitor use of the trail may result in trail widening. Wider trails may substantially increase soil loss in the project area through erosion by wind or water. This is an avoidable impact that can be mitigated through consistent monitoring of the trail corridor. BLM expects that education of visitors, trail maintenance and clear trail demarcation will decrease the trail braiding and limit trail widening compared to the no action.

Trail slope is also a key factor influencing potential for impacts to soil and vegetation on recreation trails. Many studies note that trail slopes greater than 12% were typically associated with higher

potential for degradation. The Good Water Rim Trail has an average slope to 3 to 5%. The relatively flat slope of the Good Water Rim facilitates limited erosion and limited degradation to the trail.

Due to potential direct and indirect impacts to San Rafael cactus, this project warrants a determination of “may affect, and is likely to adversely affect.” Section 7 consultation for this project was initiated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and is ongoing. Consultation will be completed before a decision is made.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Demographic monitoring plots were established in 2019 with assistance from USFWS. Annual monitoring of the plots will follow the approved monitoring plan protocol. If monitoring results indicate resource damage is occurring to the cactus due to the trail or use of the trail, BLM will implement changes that could include delineating the trail with rocks and dead/down vegetation to encourage users to stay within the existing disturbance in such a way as to blend with the landscape while narrowing the trail.

RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Even with monitoring and the mitigation measure above, there could be minor effects from fugitive dust, or the need to re-route a segment of the trail.

WILDLIFE: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED OR CANDIDATE SPECIES

All of the approximately 15.5 miles of the proposed Good Water Rim Trail is located within modeled MSO habitat that is associated with the Good Water Canyon area. The trail system is located above the canyon rim and outside of those areas that provide the nesting habitat requirements.

Approximately 446 acres of modeled suitable habitat in Good Water Canyon could be directly impacted by activities on the proposed trail. Indirect impacts to canyon nesting habitat could result from noise, activity and human presences on the proposed trail, typically during the day. Canyon topography would suppress much of the sound occurring on the proposed trail from the canyon bottom and walls, where the best foraging and nesting habitat exist. If nesting were to occur, indirect impacts are expected to be insignificant to nesting owls as the topography would reduce much of the noise created by humans on the proposed trail and the noise from bikers would be during the day when owls are least active.

A large portion of the proposed action is to delineate the trail system and try to reduce the amount of braided trails that currently exist within the area. This reduction in disturbance would limit the amount of vegetation lost and would help to improve the available forage and any available prey base for potential MSO. Direct impacts adjacent to the proposed trail from activities on the trail would occur from daytime noise and human activity within the foraging habitat along the trail. If nesting were to occur, direct impacts are expected to be insignificant to foraging owls as typically owls forage after sunset and before sunrise and bikers utilize these trails during the day, reducing the potential for conflicts.

To further reduce potential impacts, SRPs for competitive events and organized groups would only be issued in the fall/winter (September 1 – February 28), unless previously cleared following survey protocols established in the MSO Recovery Plan. In addition, major construction associated

with the Good Water Rim Trail would occur only during the fall/winter (September 1 – February 28), unless previously cleared following survey protocols established in the MSO Recovery Plan. This would ensure that if there were nesting MSO within the proposed action area, they would be finished nesting by the time construction activities or noise disturbance became a factor

The designation, maintenance, and use of this trail has potential to indirectly affect MSOs if they are in Goodwater Canyon due to noise from human activity. However, with the timing restrictions for competitive events and major construction activities and the topography of the canyon, the development and use of the Good Water Rim Trail “may affect, is not likely to adversely affect” the MSO. Consultation with the USFWS is ongoing and will be completed prior to a decision.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Timing restrictions on Organized or Competitive events that receive and SRP will minimize potential effects from increase noise and activity at critical times. The existing road (designated for OHV use in the 2008 RMP) to the overlook already receives heavy use from a variety of vehicles including large trailers and RVs, especially in the spring around Easter. Visitors to the overlook site are a mix of the bike trail users and general recreationists intending to visit the overlook and/or camp in the area. The vehicle activity at the overlook site is often continuous throughout the day, especially in the spring.

RESIDUAL IMPACTS

The timing limitation for organized and competitive events will help minimize disturbance. However, the general day use of the Wedge Overlook and Good Water Rim trail will continue year-round, with potential to affect the MSO modeled habitat and birds if present.

MONITORING AND/OR COMPLIANCE

The trail would be monitored annually to provide the BLM with a comprehensive picture of emerging issues and resource impacts. Monitoring will be used to assess the effectiveness of trail design for users, identify trails areas in need of maintenance, ensure that potential resource impacts remain mitigated, identify areas of trail braiding or other recently created social trails, and ensure resource damage is not occurring. Additionally, the trail will be monitored for visitation levels, trail width, trail condition, vegetation loss, and presence of garbage and/or human waste. Noncompliance areas will be mapped and identified for reclamation measures and future monitoring needs. If necessary, additional educational signage may be added to the trail system to prevent future non-compliance.

Special status plant species would be monitored at several plots based on the approved monitoring plan.

ALTERNATIVE B – DESIGNATE THE GOOD WATER RIM, NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL

Under Alternative B, the trail would be designated for non-motorized use, visitor parking lots would be created, toilets would be installed, and kiosks built highlighting maps and facts regarding Threatened and Endangered plant and animal species. The following are the impacts expected from

the implementation of the proposed action to the resources of concern. Trail use would be limited to non-motorized use (e-bike use would be prohibited).

RECREATION

The impacts under Alternative B would be the same as those for Alternative A as studies have found that impacts from class 1 e-bikes are not significantly different than those from traditional mountain bikes (IMBA, 2015), and there would be no expected measurable change in impacts. Since this alternative would not authorize the use of class 1 e-bikes, recreational opportunities would be decreased.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The mitigation measures for this alternative would be the same as those for alternative A because there would be no expected measurable change in impacts.

RESIDUAL IMPACTS

The same residual impacts identified under alternative A would occur with this alternative.

PLANTS: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED OR CANDIDATE SPECIES

Impacts would be the same as those for alternative A, because studies have found that impacts from class 1 e-bikes and traditional mountain bikes are not significantly different (IMBA, 2015). Trail length, width and dust levels are not expected to increase under this alternative.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The mitigation measures for this alternative would be the same as those for alternative A because there would be no expected measurable change in impacts.

RESIDUAL IMPACTS

The same residual impacts identified under alternative A would occur with this alternative.

WILDLIFE: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED OR CANDIDATE SPECIES

Impacts would be the same as those for alternative A, because studies have found that impacts from class 1 e-bikes and traditional mountain bikes are not significantly different (IMBA, 2015). Trail length, width and noise levels are not expected to increase under this alternative.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The mitigation measures for this alternative would be the same as those for alternative A because there would be no expected measurable change in impacts.

RESIDUAL IMPACTS

The same residual impacts identified under alternative A would occur with this alternative.

MONITORING AND/OR COMPLIANCE

The same monitoring and/or compliance activities in alternative A would occur with this alternative.

ALTERNATIVE C – NO ACTION

The following are the impacts expected from the implementation of the No Action Alternative to the resources of concern.

RECREATION

Under Alternative C, the No Action Alternative would not provide a designated, defined, safe and maintained trail in accordance with BLM policy.

PLANTS: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED OR CANDIDATE SPECIES

Effects to the San Rafael cactus would be similar to those in Alternatives A and B, with the following exception. Under Alternative C, the BLM would monitor trail use and seek to deter unauthorized trail riding. However, the popularity and publicity of the trail by others would continue to attract visitors who may seek to access the canyon rim and the existing trail disturbance from unmonitored points, dispersed campsites, and new user-created trails. The 2014 inventory of the proposed project documented 200 cacti within approximately five feet of the trail center line. Trail braiding and further growth of trail width is expected to occur as no formal trail maintenance would be completed, and no signs informing visitors or measures limiting/restricting visitor use would be applied. Trail widening or an increase in social trails is also expected to increase soil loss and degrade habitat through erosion by wind or water, as well as directly impact cacti individuals through damage from trail use. Parking for the trailheads would continue in the current dispersed manner and would not be limited to designated parking areas. It is expected that continued dispersed parking would increase soil disturbance and degrade occupied and suitable cacti habitat. Several cacti have been observed near the roads and dispersed parking can negatively affect cacti habitat through compaction and disturbance and potentially remove them. Direct and indirect impacts to San Rafael cactus may occur and would continue to occur under this alternative.

WILDLIFE: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED OR CANDIDATE SPECIES

Under Alternative C, the existing undesignated trail would continue to be used by visitors, although no formal maintenance would be completed, and no signs informing visitors or measures limiting / restricting visitor use could be applied. Direct and indirect impacts to the MSO may occur and would continue to occur until the trail is officially designated, or until all use of the trail is discontinued.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

RECREATION

The cumulative impact area is the larger Wedge area, Buckhorn Flat, and the base of Cedar Mountain. This area is defined by understanding that if the trail were to be designated, more biking activity would occur in the larger area. Biking activity is already observed in the areas noted.

Historically, the Wedge has been a primary destination for sightseers and recreationists. The views of the San Rafael River are unmatched in expanse and beauty. The overlooks along the rim were developed to support this auto-tourism activity. The main road to the Wedge is identified as a County B Road, which generally means it receives a high amount of use and is regularly maintained by Emery County. The Wedge has long been popular by motorized and non-motorized users alike. The implementation of the 2003 motorized route travel plan designated certain routes for motorized use and closed others. It could be argued that this action helped to limit potential conflict between the two uses while still providing for a variety of opportunities. Activity at the Wedge has increased significantly over the last decade, requiring management actions such as increased signing, proper campsite identification, and the installation of post and pole barricades and large boulders to help direct and manage the traffic.

It is reasonable that recreation activity in the Wedge Area will continue to increase. If approved, the implementation of the proposed action would add a much-needed component to visitor management and recreation opportunity management. In addition to the proposed action, it is reasonable to think that future management actions could include designating specific campsites and limiting camping to those specific sites and charging a user fee for camping and/or associated recreation activity within the cumulative impact area. The opportunities would continue to be offered, but likely in a more structured way, as visitation continues to increase, and management becomes more necessary.

The proposed action would add cumulatively to the suite of recreation opportunities available in the Wedge area. There would be a positive cumulative impact to recreation resources as the management of the Good Water Rim Trail, as proposed in Alternative B, will bring a more active BLM presence to the area and a greater ability to better manage all resource uses.

Under Alternative A, there is a potential for greater negative cumulative impacts with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. Cattle trails, OHV use, and trail braiding could continue to see proliferation throughout the area under this alternative.

PLANTS: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED OR CANDIDATE SPECIES

The cumulative impact area is the entirety of the Wedge population of the cactus. A population is defined using NatureServe criteria; individuals of a plant species occurring more than one kilometer (km) apart over unsuitable habitat or more than two km apart over suitable habitat are

considered to belong to different populations. Based on known occurrences, geology, and precipitation, there is approximately 13,500 acres of suitable habitat for San Rafael cactus in the Wedge population. Survey data for the Wedge population was collected in since 2011. The 2011 survey covered approximately 1,300 acres (10% of Wedge Area) and identified 3,488 cacti. Subsequent surveys have documented additional cacti and at present, at least 3,700 plants have been identified within the Wedge population (draft recovery plan). Because of the distance between populations, the effects caused by actions within the Wedge population are expected to be contained to the population.

Within the Wedge population there are county roads, designated motorized routes, livestock grazing, mining and recreation activities including camping, the Wedge overlook site visitation and biking that can directly or indirectly affect the cactus.

Recreation will continue to occur, including camping and overlook visitation, and use of the motorized routes and roads. Livestock grazing, mining and motorized use of the roads is expected to continue.

At least 200 San Rafael cactus plants have the potential to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed action, and approximately 12.62 acres of suitable habitat for this species may be disturbed or degraded during construction and installation of the proposed trail and associated facilities. This represents potential impacts to approximately 5.4 % of the total known population of this species within the Wedge populations and a 0.09 % potential loss and / or degradation of suitable habitat.

Under the No Action alternative, direct and indirect impacts to at least 200 San Rafael cacti may occur, because the trail currently exists and is in use, although it has not been officially authorized. In addition, suitable habitat for this species may be lost or fragmented through trail use and route modification and dispersed parking in suitable habitat. Cumulative impacts would be similar to those under the proposed action alternative, although these impacts are anticipated to be reduced under the proposed action through the application of appropriate and effective mitigation measures.

WILDLIFE: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED OR CANDIDATE SPECIES

The cumulative impact area is the 0.5-mile buffer from the Good Water Rim Trail. Based on the nature of the anticipated primary action (bicycle use), it is expected that the direct and indirect effects from noise and human activity would be contained within the 0.5 buffer. In addition, the 0.5 buffer includes all of Good Water Canyon, which is the area most likely to provide suitable habitat for the MSO.

Within the 0.5-mile buffer, there are county roads, livestock grazing, and recreation activities including camping, the Wedge overlook site visitation and bicycle use that can directly or indirectly affect MSO. Activity at the Wedge overlook has increased significantly over the last decade, requiring management actions such as increased signing, proper campsite identification, and the installation of post and pole barricades and large boulders to help direct and manage the traffic. In addition, recreation use occurs along the San Rafael River, boating during high water years, and hiking and horseback riding through the canyon.

It is reasonable that recreation activity at the Wedge Overlook will continue to increase. If approved, the implementation of the proposed action would add a much-needed component to visitor management and recreation opportunity management. In addition to the proposed action, it is reasonable to think that future management actions could include designating specific campsites and limiting camping to those specific sites. Recreation activities would continue to be offered, but likely in a more structured way, with timing limitations.

Indirect impacts to canyon nesting habitat could result from noise, activity and human presences on the proposed trail and the Wedge area. Where the existing and future recreation activities occur, the noise and human activity could cumulatively add to the impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed action.

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5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

The issue identification section of Chapter 1 identifies those issues analyzed in detail in Chapter 4. The issues were identified through the public and agency involvement process described below.

PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Table 5-1 lists the persons, groups, and agencies that were coordinated with or consulted during the preparation of this project. The table also summarizes the conclusions of those processes.

TABLE 5-1: COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Consultation for undertakings, as required by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 USC 470)	A Class III cultural resources survey of the APE was conducted in 2015. The BLM consulted with the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer on 12/18/2015 on their determination of “no historic properties affected”. The SHPO concurred with the BLM’s finding on 12/22/2015.
Native American Tribes	Consultation as required by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1531) and NHPA (16 USC 1531) EO 13007	Letters were sent in October 2014. No Native American concerns are known in the project area, and none have been noted by tribal authorities.
USFWS	Consult with USFWS as the agency with expertise on impacts on Mexican Spotted Owl and San Rafael cactus.	USFWS consultation is on-going.
Emery County	Project Coordination	Ongoing discussion about the trail and recreation opportunities in the wedge area at the Emery County Trails Committee meetings.
Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)	Project Coordination.	Ongoing communication about effect to wildlife in the area.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Notification of the preparation and on-going progress regarding the previous environmental assessment was posted on the ePlanning website in November 2017. The EA was posted on the ePlanning website on March 4, 2019 and a 15-day public comment period was offered beginning on March 5, 2019. The BLM maintains these public comments and responses on file, and they were considered and incorporated into the preparation of this EA. A 30-day public comment period was offered in April 2020. The ePlanning website can be located at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front->

[office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=1504554&dctmId=0b0003e8815f5e80](#). When finalized, a copy of the EA will be available at the same location.

LIST OF PREPARERS

The specialists listed in the following table(s) assisted in the preparation of this EA.

TABLE 5-2 BLM PREPARERS

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Blake Baker	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Project Lead
Dana Truman	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant and Animal Species
Joseph Rodarme	NEPA Coordinator	Quality Assurance

6.0 REFERENCES, GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

INTRODUCTION

The following sections list the references cited within this document, the terms used and their definitions, and the acronyms used and their meanings.

REFERENCES CITED

BLM 2012. 6310- Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands. March 15, 2012. 31 pages

Chaney 2019. Mountain Biker Attitudes and Perceptions of eMTBs. [https://wsd-pfb-sparkinfluence.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2019/08/Article .pdf](https://wsd-pfb-sparkinfluence.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2019/08/Article.pdf)

IMBA 2015. IMBA report: A Comparison of Environmental Impacts from Mountain Bicycle, Class 1 Electric Mountain Bicycles, and Motorcycles: Soil Displacement and Erosion on Bike Optimized Trails in a Western Oregon Forest, Fall 2015.
https://b3cdn.net/bikes/c3fe8a28f1a0f32317_g3m6bdt7g.pdf

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2008. 07-F-005, Biological Opinion for BLM Resource Management Plan. Price Field Office. October 27, 2008. 244 pages.

Webber, P. (2004). Trail solutions: IMBA's guide to building sweet singletrack. *International Mountain Bicycling Association, Colorado, U.S.A.*

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The below table contains a list of acronyms and their meanings that are frequently used by the BLM and which may have been used in the writing of this document.

TABLE 6-1: ACRONYMS

Acronym	Meaning
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACEPM	Applicant-Committed Environmental Protection Measure
AO	Authorized Officer
APD	Application for Permit to Drill
APE	Area of Potential Effect
AUM	Animal Unit Month
BCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BLM	Bureau of Land Management

Acronym	Meaning
BMP	Best Management Practice
CEQ	Council of Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIAA	Cumulative Impact Analysis Area
CO	Carbon Monoxide
COA	Condition of Approval
CWA	Clean Water Act
DAQ	Division of Air Quality
DR	Decision Record
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FO	Field Office
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GIS	Geographic Information System
HAP	Hazardous Air Pollutants
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NAAQS	National and Utah Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NI	Not Impacted
NP	Not Present
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSO	No Surface Occupancy
OHV	Off-highway Vehicle
Onsite	Onsite Inspections per Onshore Order #1
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act
PAC	Protected Activity Center
PIF	Partners in Flight
PUP	Pesticide Use Proposal

Acronym	Meaning
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976
RFD	Reasonable Foreseeable Development
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
ROW	Right-of-way
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SDR	State Director Review
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SITLA	School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
SMA	Surface Management Agency
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SUPO	Surface Use Plan of Operations
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UDOGM	Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
UDWaR	Utah Division of Water Rights
UDWR	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDI	U.S. Department of the Interior
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A: INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)

Project Title: Good Water Rim Trail EA

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-G020-2020-0018-EA

Project Leader: Blake Baker, Outdoor Recreation Planner

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: *(Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)*

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

TABLE APPENDIX A-1: INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	The emissions (including GHG) expected from this project will be localized (in the project area) and of such a small amount that the emissions will not be distinguishable from background air quality by either monitors or models.	Joseph Rodarme	3/12/2020
NI	Cultural: Archaeological Resources	<p>Pursuant to 36CFR800, a Class III inventory was required for sections of the trail that will be designated, and for any areas with anticipated surface disturbing activities.</p> <p>Pursuant to 36CFR800.3 the proposed action is a federal undertaking with the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The area of potential effect (APE) was defined in 2014 as a 100-foot-wide corridor centered along the proposed trail corridor, with extended survey coverage at proposed parking/staging areas and where surface disturbance may occur in association with the construction of protective barriers around endangered cacti.</p> <p>A Class III cultural resources survey of the aforementioned 2014 APE was conducted in 2015 under project U-15-BL-0719bs. Three archaeological sites were identified within the APE and determined not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The BLM consulted with the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer on 12/18/2015 on their determination of “no historic properties affected”. The SHPO concurred with the BLM’s finding on 12/22/2015.</p>	Natalie Fewings	6/27/2018

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Cultural: Native American Religious Concerns	Letters to the tribes regularly consulted with by the BLM-Price Field Office were sent in October 2014. No Native American concerns are known in the project area, and none have been noted by Ute tribal authorities. No replies were received. Previous consultations with tribal authorities have indicated that consultation is not desired for projects that have no potential to affect known cultural sites. Should future inventories or consultations with tribal authorities reveal the existence of sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.	Nicole Lohman	2/20/2018
NI	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	After review of the Price RMP and GIS the San Rafael Canyon ACEC is located within the project area. After review and implementation of design features to minimize visual impacts there are no negative impacts to the San Rafael Canyon ACEC in the proposed project area.	Blake Baker	03/12/2020
NP	Designated Areas: BLM Natural Areas	There are no BLM Natural Areas within the proposed project area as per GIS and RMP review	Blake Baker	03/12/2020
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers within the project area as per review of RMP/GIS maps.	Blake Baker	03/12/2020

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Wilderness/WSA	<p>Prior to the passing of the Dingell Act in March 2019, there were no Wilderness Areas in the San Rafael Swell, including the area of proposed action. The Dingell Act included legislation that created the Sids Mountain Wilderness Area, which is adjacent to or near the proposed trail. The Wilderness boundary and proposed corridor of the trail were closely reviewed. It's determined that they do not overlap. The Wilderness area boundary follows the canyon rim, while the proposed trail stays above the canyon rim.</p> <p>Consideration was then given to impacts within the Wilderness area from bicycle activity because they are adjacent to one another. The Dingell Act states: "Congress does not intend for the designation of the wilderness areas to create a protective perimeter or buffer zones around the wilderness areas. The fact that non-wilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from within a wilderness area shall not preclude the conduct of those activities outside the boundary of the wilderness area" (Part II Subpart B Sec. 1232). This makes it clear that the activity as proposed does not impact wilderness even if it may be considered present.</p>	Myron Jeffs	03/17/2020
NI	Environmental Justice	No poverty or minority populations exist in or near the project area, so no disproportionate adverse effects will occur.	Joseph Rodarme	3/12/2020
NP	Farmlands (prime/unique)	According to the NRCS soils surveys and knowledge of the area, there are no prime/unique farmlands within the project area.	Stephanie Bauer	3/17/2020
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	The proposed project should limit the amount of trail riders to designated areas. Follow any seasonal fire restrictions.	Stuart Bedke	02/26/2018
NP	Geology / Minerals/Energy Production	Based on existing GIS data, there are no locatable or salable minerals located within the project area. These locations are also stratigraphically well below any recoverable coal resources.	Rebecca Anderson	3/3/2020

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	<p>Surface disturbing activities could result in the introduction/spread of invasive species/noxious weeds. There are no known infestations of noxious weeds within the project area, however, invasive species like halogeton and Russian thistle are present within the project area. The user created trails are present and currently being used. There is a risk of introducing noxious weeds to the Good Water Rim area by carrying seeds on equipment and clothing. Equipment and clothing should be free of mud and debris to help eliminate the possibility of introducing noxious weeds into this area or other adjacent areas. Educating trail users and signage at trailheads would help prevent introduction or spread of invasive species or noxious weeds. Trails should be monitored to ensure early detection and rapid response (EDRR) for the eradication of noxious weed populations that could potentially become establish. By following BMPs, educating users and monitoring the trail for noxious weeds impacts to invasive species/noxious weeds would be minimal.</p>	Stephanie Bauer	5/7/2018
NI	Lands/Access	<p>A review of LR2000 and the Master Title Plats showed that the proposed action is compatible with the existing land use and authorized right-of-ways. There are no conflicts with other land use authorizations.</p>	Veronica Kratman	3/2/2020
NI	Lands with wilderness characteristics	<p>The project area is within the Sids Mountain LWC unit. The proposed disturbance from the 3 parking areas is less than .1 percent of the 1,145 acre Sids Mountain LWC unit. According to BLM Manual 6310, examples of human-made features that may be considered substantially unnoticeable in certain cases include: trails, trail signs, and pit toilets. The Goodwater rim trail design contours the natural topography and blends with the landscape. Trailheads and campgrounds would be constructed using neutral colors and natural materials that would make the infrastructure less noticeable. According to the PFO RMP (2008), this unit was not chosen to be managed for those wilderness characteristics.</p>	Blake Baker	3/13/2020

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Livestock Grazing	The proposed project would occur in the Buckhorn Allotment. To date there have not been any documented conflicts between mountain bikers and livestock on this allotment. The trail does not cross any fence lines or other barriers to livestock. Therefore, designation of the Goodwater Rim Trail is not expected to affect the livestock management in the area.	Karl Ivory	03/22/2018
NI	Paleontology	Based on GIS data, the project area lies within Class 2 and Class 3 areas of the Potential Fossil Yield Classification System (PFYC). Class 2 are not likely to contain paleontological resources. Class 3 has a moderate likelihood of containing paleontological resources, but these occurrences are widely scattered and potential for an authorized land use to impact a significant paleontological resource is known to be low-to-moderate. Operations could uncover vertebrate fossils and if this happens, work should immediately halt in that location and the Price Field Office should be notified	Rebecca Anderson	3/3/2020
NI	Plants: BLM Sensitive	After review of the BLM records, there are no known populations directly affected the proposed Good Water Rim trail. ERMA occurs on the slick rock down in the canyons below the trail. The trail is not within habitat, therefore no effect is expected.	Christine Cimiluca	08/07/2018
PI	Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	This project is within the Wedge Key area for PEDE8. There are known documented individuals within 1.5 feet of the center line of the trail. The trail was surveyed in 2014 spring. Additional surveys for proposed parking areas for this project were completed in 2015 and 2018. Consultation is ongoing, mitigation will need to be implemented.	Christine Cimiluca	08/07/2018
NP	Wetland/Riparian	A review of the Price Field Office riparian database indicates that there are no wetland/riparian areas within the proposed Good Water Rim Trail project area.	Karl Ivory	03/22/2018
PI	Recreation	Analyzed in detail.	Blake Baker	03/12/2020

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	The Rangeland health standards were evaluated in 2009. The standards were met at that time. The mountain bike trails have been in existence for several years. Continuation of the use is not anticipated to affect the Standards for Rangeland Health.	Karl Ivory	03/22/2018
NI	Socio-Economics	This project is so small and localized that it will not impact the social or economic status of the County or its communities.	Joseph Rodarme	3/12/2020
NI	Visual Resources	<p>The proposed action is found to be located within VRM II with management directions to retain the existing character of the landscape. A Visual Contrast Rating Analysis was completed 03/30/2020 and the visual contrast was determined to be weak for Form, Line, Color, and Texture.</p> <p>The level of change to the characteristic landscape would be low. Activities may be seen but would not dominate the view. Trails currently existing on the ground are less than 2 feet wide. Any proposed new trail sections would follow standards for VRM II management directives by following the existing contour of the land and blending in with the background. Design features would be incorporated in the trailhead construction. The trailheads would be constructed using neutral colors and natural materials that would make the infrastructure less noticeable and remain in conformance with the VRM class II objectives.</p> <p>The trail and associated infrastructure would not impact the viewshed of the nearby San Rafael River, which is approximately 1,000 feet below the rim where the trail currently exists.</p>	Blake Baker	03/30/2020
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Furthermore, no extremely hazardous substances, as defined in 40 CFR 355, in threshold planning quantities, will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of in association with the project. Trash would be confined in a covered container and disposed of in an approved landfill. No burning of any waste will occur due to this project. Human waste will be disposed of in an appropriate manner.	Jaydon Mead	03/13/2018

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Water: Floodplains	After an inspection of USGS 7.5 minute maps of the area, it is determined no floodplains as defined by EO 11988, FEMA, or Corps of Engineers is found on or near the project area that would be impacted	Peter Kauss	2/22/2018
NI	Soils	There would be a minor amount of surface disturbing actions associated with the proposed action because the majority of the trail is on slick rock or rock outcrops. Since trails are designed to be sustainable and this trail is already in place, no increase in erosion or sediment yields is expected to occur. Of the 15 miles of trail, approximately ½ mile crosses small scattered patches of cryptobiotic soils. The surface of the trail does not contain any cryptobiotic soils. As long as trail users stay on the trail, it is expected that impacts to cryptobiotic soils will be minimal and limited to any users that go off trail. Monitoring of the area and signage would be helpful in protecting this resource.	Stephanie Bauer	3/20/2020
NI	Water: Groundwater Quality	There would be no sub surface disturbance that could affect ground water. There would be a minimal amount of disturbance associated with the proposed action, and it is not expected to impact water quality.	Rebecca Anderson	3/3/2020
NI	Water: Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	There would be a minimal amount of disturbance associated with the proposed action, and it is not expected to impact hydrologic conditions. No 404 issues are anticipated.	Rebecca Anderson	3/3/2020
NP	Water: Municipal Watershed / Drinking Water Source Protection	There are no Municipal Watershed/Drinking Water Source Protection Zones within or near the project area per GIS review.	Rebecca Anderson	3/3/2020
NP	Water: Steams, Riparian Wetlands, Floodplains	A review of the Price Field Office riparian database indicates that there are no wetland/riparian areas within the proposed Good Water Rim Trail project area. There are no floodplains as defined by EO 11988, FEMA, or Corps of Engineers is found on or near the project area that would be impacted.	Rebecca Anderson	3/3/2020

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Water: Surface Water Quality	There would be a minimal amount of new disturbance associated with the proposed action. Most the project is on existing trails. It is not expected to impact water quality.	Rebecca Anderson	3/3/2020
NI	Water: Water Rights	Changes in water quality or quantity in the watershed can affect the ability to use and develop water rights. Due to the limited surface disturbance and following best management practices outlined in the proposed action, it is not expected to significantly impact water quality or quantity, therefore no impact to water rights is expected and detailed analysis is not required.	Rebecca Anderson	3/3/2020
NI	Water: Waters of the U.S.	There would be a minimal amount of disturbance associated with the proposed action. Most the project is on existing trails. It is not expected to impact any waters associated with interstate or the nation's waters.	Rebecca Anderson	3/3/2020
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	Wild horse and burro management area is not present within the proposed project area.	Mike Tweddell	3/2/2020
NP	BLM Sensitive Animal Species	BLM sensitive animal species are not known to be present within the project area as per GIS/Map review.	Dana Truman	8/11/2018
NI	Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)	There are no mapped important migratory bird habitat areas in the project area. Although migratory birds would use the project area, no special status migratory birds are known to be in this area; therefore, no special stipulations are needed. Raptors are known to use the area for foraging. The area supports suitable nesting habitat for some species. Of concern are eagles, peregrine falcons, and other hawks. No raptor nests are located within 50 feet of the proposed trail. Because the trail and the recreation activity are already present and there would be a minor amount of surface disturbing actions associated with the proposed action no effect to the migratory birds is expected. If raptor nests are located, BLM will work with DWR to reduce impacts by closing view areas/pullouts that are too close on an annual basis or other similar actions.	Dana Truman	8/11/2018

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated	Crucial yearlong habitat for desert bighorn and pronghorn are located within the project area. This type of habitat is important to these species as it provides them with all the elements required to successfully breed and reproduce. Communication with UDWR occurred Feb 2019. Limitations on SRPs, pullouts, and trail maintenance activities are recommended to reduce potential impacts to bighorn sheep. This proposed action is for the trail only. The design features adequately address the concerns.	Dana Truman	2/27/2019
PI	Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	<p>Suitable or occupied habitat for the following Federally listed species has been previously documented or is expected to occur within Emery County (IPaC8/11/18).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. California condor-Would be an unlikely visitor to the site due to the elevation, and other habitat considerations. 2. Mexican spotted owl – modeled habitat is within 0.5 mile of the proposed trail. 3. Southwestern willow flycatcher – Designated critical habitat greater than 30 miles away. And project is located farther north than any known occurrences. 4. Yellow billed cuckoo – No suitable habitat within the trail corridor. Critical habitat is greater than 30 miles away. <p>Analysis of elevation and habitat requirements indicates that suitable habitat for the SWFL and YBCC is not present on the mesa top/trail corridor because riparian areas are not present on the rim nor in Good Water canyon. Riparian areas are associated with the San Rafael River. The San Rafael river is within a 0.5 mile buffer of approximately 1 mile trail corridor. This trail corridor is adjacent to an existing road, and over 1000 below the rim.</p> <p>The proposed action occurs adjacent to areas that have been modeled as potential habitat for MSO. It is unlikely that MSO occur within the area due to the amount of use already associated with camping and recreational activities within the area. However, surveys have never been conducted within the area. Consultation with USFWS is ongoing.</p>	Dana Truman	08/11/2018

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Woodland / Forestry	There are no merchantable woodland/forestry products within the project area. The user created trails are present and designating them should not require any removal of woodland products. Therefore, negligible impacts to woodland/forestry is expected	Stephanie Bauer	5/7/2018

TABLE APPENDIX A-2: FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			

APPENDIX B: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAPS

FIGURE 1: PROJECT GENERAL LOCATION

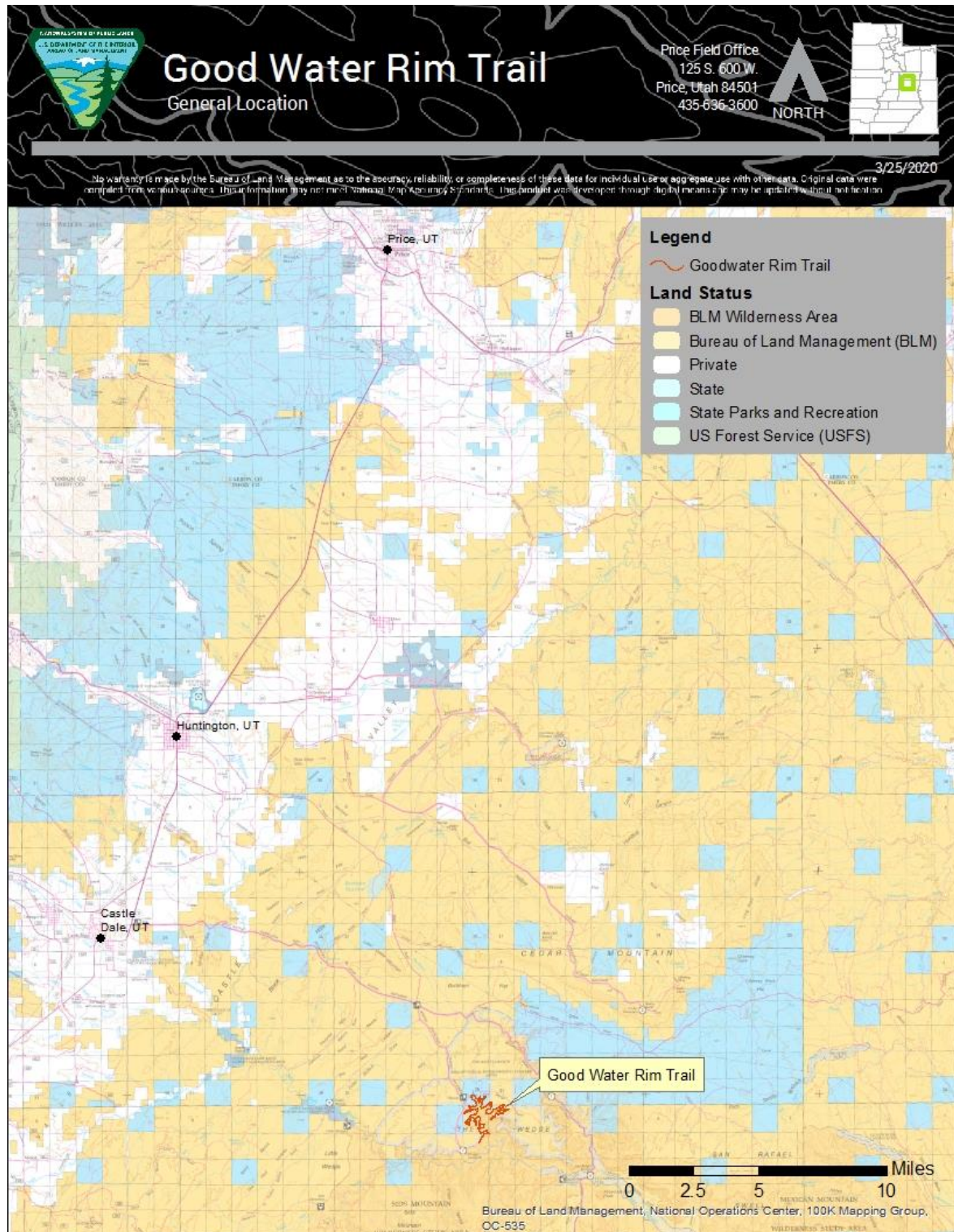
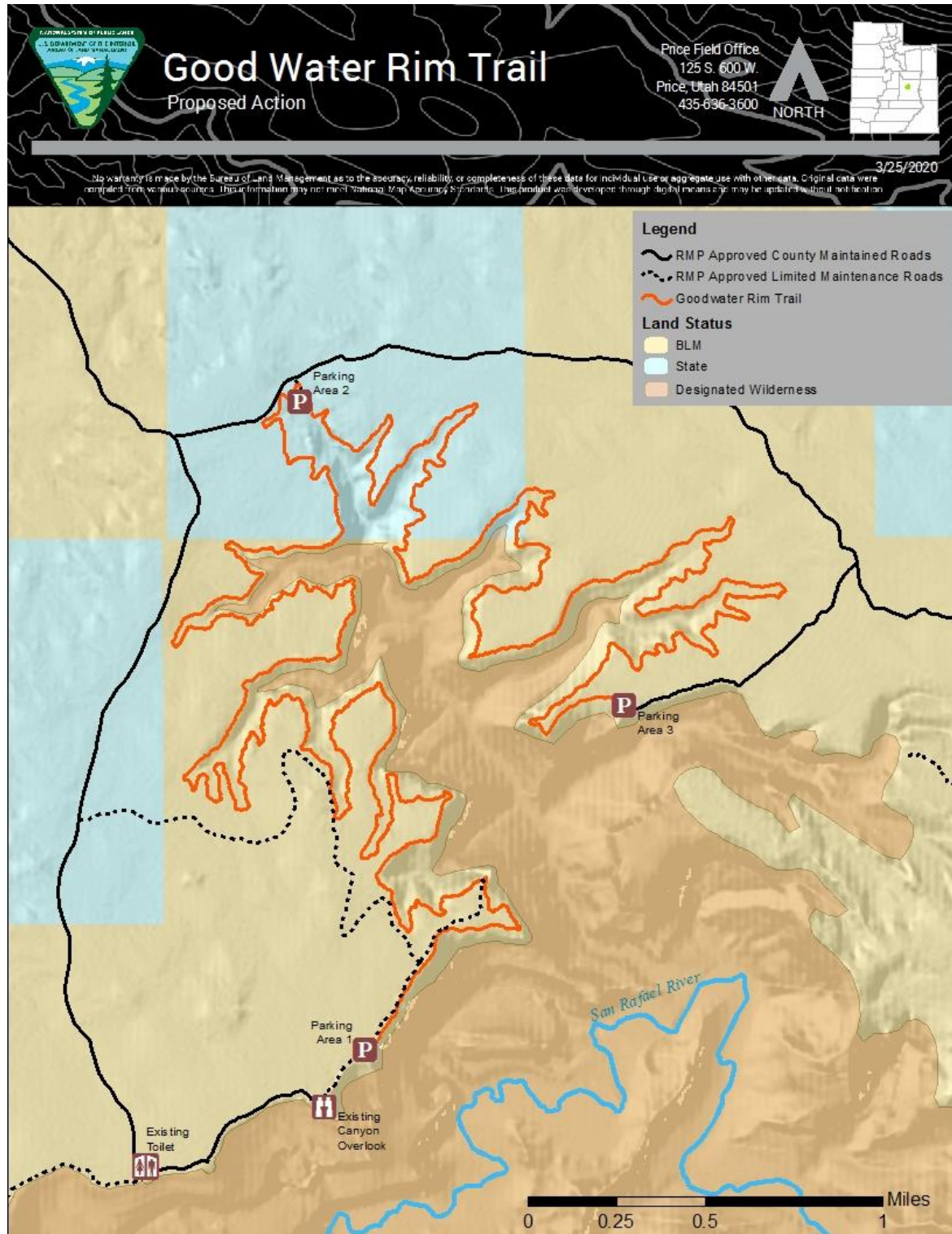


FIGURE 2: PROPOSED ACTION



APPENDIX C: DESIGN FEATURES

Fish and Non-Avian Wildlife Habitat

- Disturbances to wildlife would be further minimized through a user-education based experience.

BLM Sensitive Plant Species, other than those listed or proposed by the USFWS as Threatened or Endangered

- Prior to construction of trailheads or performing trail maintenance, surveys would be conducted by a qualified BLM approved botanist in areas where BLM sensitive plant species are likely to occur, based on habitat requirements. Cactus would be avoided, or consultation would be re-initiated.
- SRPs for competitive events and organized groups would only be issued in the fall/winter (September 1 – February 28), unless previously cleared following survey protocols established in the MSO Recovery Plan.
- Major construction associated with the Good Water Rim Trail would occur only during the fall/winter (September 1 – February 28), unless previously cleared following survey protocols established in the MSO Recovery Plan.
- The trail is purposefully narrow, winding around trees to limit the off-trail use. At the maximum width, BLM will allow for 4 feet of disturbance with the typical travel surface of 2 feet.

Recreation

- All events would be timed and signed to minimize conflicts and safety issues between user groups.

Visual Resources

- If required, realignments would be designed to contour the natural topography and blend with the landscape.
- Trailheads and campgrounds would be constructed using neutral colors and natural materials that would make the infrastructure less noticeable.
- Viewshed would be prioritized when placing new facilities such as fencing or pit toilets.
- Structures would be located appropriately to preserve views from the canyon rim.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

- Trails developed in the units would be designed to contour the natural topography and blend with the landscape
- Trailheads and campgrounds would be constructed using neutral colors and natural materials that would make the infrastructure less noticeable.

Non-native, Invasive, and Noxious Plant Species

- Prior to ground disturbance, areas with higher non-native, invasive, and noxious species would be identified and avoided, mechanized equipment would be inspected and cleaned, and educational materials would be provided at kiosks.

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APPENDIX D: ROUTE EVALUATION FORM

Evaluation Form for Interdisciplinary Route Analysis																
1	Route ID	SS3024, Good Water Rim Trail			2	Length	15.5 miles									
3	Location	Emery County, T 20 S R 10 E, follows the rim of Goodwater Canyon			4	Date	3/26/20 20									
5	ID Team	Price Field Office														
6	Route Type	Road		Primitive Road		Trail	X	Way								
7	Purpose & Need of Motorized and Non-Motorized Travel on the Route: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both motorized and non-motorized travel currently occurs on the route including mountain bikes and e-bikes. Based on observed use, public input, and publicly available, user-generated data, the Good Water Rim Trail is one of the most used non-motorized trails in the Price Field Office. The need is to respond to the public's desire for more recreational opportunities while protecting sensitive resources. The trail is both locally and regionally important to the recreation community, and is considered by many, a Utah must ride classic. The trail is highly valued by Emery county for economic benefits and by users for its recreational values. 															
	Additional Comments Regarding the Purpose & Need of Motorized and Non-Motorized Travel on the Route:															
8	Potential Resource and/or User Conflicts from Motorized and Non-Motorized Travel on the Route: <p>The route is located within suitable and occupied habitat for San Rafael cactus (<i>Pediocactus despainii</i>). This species is currently listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). No critical habitat has been designated for this species. The Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) was listed as a threatened species in 1993. The MSO is the widest ranging of the three spotted owl sub-species. The MSO Recovery Plan (2012) described owl canyon habitat as deep, steep-walled canyons and hanging canyons. Nesting and roosting in Utah occurs in caves and on ledges in this canyon habitat. The Good Water Canyon itself offers approximately 446 acres of limited and isolated potential habitat for MSO occupancy with the best foraging habitat being centered within the main stem of the Good Water Canyon and some potential nesting habitat located within portions of the side canyons. No designated critical habitat and no Protected Activity Centers (PACs) are located on or near any portion of the Good Water Rim Trail. The nearest active PACs to the proposed area are the Trail Canyon, Big Canyon and Rain Canyon PAC located approximately 40 miles to the northeast of the Good Water Canyon area. No sightings have been documented in the last 10 years.</p>															
	Additional Comments Regarding Potential Resource and/or User Conflicts from Motorized and Non-Motorized Travel on the Route:															
9	Route Designation Alternatives: <p>Potential route designations include limited to class 1 e-bikes and Non-Motorized Forms of Travel, and limited to non-motorized use only</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">No Action</td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;">Alternative B</td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;">Alternative C</td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;">Proposed Action</td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Comments: Proposed Action- Alternative A - Limited to class 1 e-bikes and Non-Motorized Forms of Travel. Alternative B- Limited to non-motorized use.</p>								No Action		Alternative B		Alternative C		Proposed Action	
No Action		Alternative B		Alternative C		Proposed Action										
10	Recommended Mitigation Measures to Minimize User and Resource Conflicts for Each Alternative: <p>Mitigation measures to protect resources are to designate, delineate, and actively manage the trail. Mitigation measures would include timing considerations of SRPs to minimize user conflicts.</p>															
11	Summary Regarding the ID Team's Proposed Action Recommendation: <p>The IDT recommendation is to open the route to class 1 e-bikes. The main type of use on the trail is bicycles however, other types of non-motorized use does occur on the trail. Class 1 e-bikes are operable in the same manner as other types of bicycles and in many cases, they appear virtually indistinguishable from other types of bicycles. The inclusion of e-bikes may increase the number of users on the trail and may increase the number of same direction passes. This may result in more user interactions and could result in a perception of crowding and a less satisfactory trail experience. This could displace some users seeking less trafficked trails.</p>															

Evaluation Checklist for Interdisciplinary Route Analysis					
Purpose & Need Criteria			Resource Criteria		
Administrative Uses			Resource	Potentially Affected?	Comment
Use	Yes	Comment			
Compliance/Enforcement Monitoring	Yes	Bi-annual monitoring for noxious weeds.	* Air Quality - Dust	No	
Fire Suppression	No		* Air Quality - Non-Attainment Area	No	
Predator Control	No		* Wildlife	Yes	Desert Bighorn Sheep, Pronghorn
Public Safety	No		* Special Status Species #1 Habitat	Yes	Mexican Spotted Owl
Training Area/Facility	No		* Proximity to Special Status Species #1 Habitat	No	
Vegetation Treatment Area	No		* Special Status Species #2 Habitat	No	
Wildlife Water			* Proximity to Special Status Species #2 Habitat	No	
Other Administrative Uses	No		In a Wash	No	
Commercial Uses			Wash Crossing	Yes	
Use	Yes	Comment	Proximity to a Wash	Yes	
Ranching	Yes	This trail is within an active grazing allotment.	Redundant Route	No	
Mining	No		Herd Management Area	No	Not in an HMA
Mineral/Materials	No		* Vegetation		
Fluid Minerals	No		* Special Status Plant Species #1	Yes	San Rafael Cactus
Renewable Energy	No		* Special Status Plant Species #2	No	
Right-of-Way	No	There are no ROWs present on the trail.	Invasive Non-Native Vegetation	No	
Utility	No		Other Vegetation		
Special Recreation Permits	Yes	Future events and guided tours will take place on this trail with restrictions.	* Soils	No	Soils have been compacted on travel surface. Minimal continued impacts from use are expected.
Other Commercial Uses	No		Erosive Soils	No	Majority of travel surface located on rock outcrops and stable soils.
Public Uses			Other Sensitive Soils	Yes	Crosses small patches of biological soil crust, but no biological soil crust exists on travel surface of trail.
Use	Yes	Comment	* Watershed	No	
Property Access	No		Water Quality	No	
Class B Road	No		Stream Crossing	No	

Other Public Uses	No		* Cultural Resource Site	No	No Historic Properties Affected
Recreational Uses			Proximity to Cultural Resource Site	No	No Historic Properties Affected
Use	Yes	Comment	High Probability Cultural Resource Area	No	No Historic Properties Affected
OHV Use	No		* Paleontological Resources	No	
Trailhead Access	Yes	This trail will be accessible from a few trailheads.	* Visual Resource Management Class	Yes	Class II
Loop/Connector Trail	Yes	This is a loop trail and connects to other routes.	Known Visual Scar	No	
Dispersed Camping	Yes	There are many dispersed campsites near this trail.	* ACEC	Yes	San Rafael Canyon
Developed Camping	No		* Wilderness	No	This trail is approximate to the Sids Mountain Wilderness
* Hunting	Yes	This area falls within a hunting boundary unit, and this trail may be used occasionally for access.	* Wilderness Study Area	No	
* Recreational Shooting	No		* Natural Area	No	
* Fishing	No		Wilderness Characteristics	Yes	This trail is within the Sids Mountain LWC unit.
* Equestrian	Yes	Infrequent or use, most equestrian users avoid this trail.	Other Wilderness Characteristic Considerations	No	
* Mountain Biking	Yes	This is the primary use on this trail.	* Wild & Scenic River	No	
* Hiking	Yes	Trail running, and hiking are common uses of this trail.	* National Historic Trail	No	
Permitted OHV Events	No		Special Recreation Management Area	Yes	San Rafael Swell
Wildlife Viewing	Yes		Recreation Management Zone	Yes	Wedge / Buckhorn RMZ
Rock hounding	Yes	Infrequent use, but it does occur.	Prescribed Recreation Setting (ROS)	Yes	This trail crosses through 3 ROS classes. Roaded Natural, Semi Primitive Motorized, and Semi Primitive Non-Motorized.
Picnicking	Yes		* Conflicts with Other Recreational Users	No	There are currently no known conflicts

Pullouts	Yes	Pullouts are proposed to be developed.	* Noise		
Woodcutting	No		* Adjacent Communities	No	Emery County and the local communities are pushing to have this trail designated.
Other Recreational Uses	Yes	Landscape viewing	Other Criteria	No	

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APPENDIX E: VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 03/27/2020

District Office: Green River District

Field Office: Price Field office

Land Use Planning Area: San Rafael Swell SRMA

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name Good Water Rim Trail EA	4. KOP Location (T.R.S) T20S R10E Section SENW	5. Location Sketch Located on page 3
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name Main Overlook		
3. VRM Class at Project Location II	(Lat. Long) -110.7337 30.1124	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat, linear mesa top	Weak and flat along mesa top	None Present
LINE	Straight, horizontal background mountain range and mesa. Diagonal canyon in foreground	Straight and regular butt edge along mesa top	None Present
COLOR	light reds and brown-tan	Green, grays, and brown	None Present
TEXTURE	Uniform and directional background. Gradational slopes in foreground	Medium grain, medium density. Even/Random along mesa-top. Uneven/random along slopes	None Present

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	No Change	No Change	Simple triangular roof and cylindrical vent among trees
LINE	No Change	No Change	Weak angular geometric figure among vegetation
COLOR	No Change	No Change	Dull tan and gray
TEXTURE	No Change	No Change	Subtle ordered structure behind dense vegetation

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☒ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES												2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverses side)
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)				
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	
ELEMENTS	FORM				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Additional mitigating measures recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverses side)
	LINE				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	COLOR				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	TEXTURE				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Evaluator's Names: Blake Baker, Myron Jeffs Date: 03/30/2020														

(Continued on Page 2)

(Form 8400-4)

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

The KOP is the main lookout along the west side of the rim. The KOP is 310 meters away from the project site. The vegetation, on average, is between 10 and 15 feet tall. The planned CXT vault toilet roof is 9-10 feet tall and vent is 11-13 feet tall depending on placement. The toilet would be placed approximately 70 meters from the rim edge behind several trees from the KOP. Views from the rim are focused on the canyon below not the distant mountain range to the north. It is likely, with the current placement, that the toilet would be difficult to identify if not invisible to the casual observer at the main overlook site.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

Potentially paint the (typically black) vent stack a natural color that would blend in with the landscape.

Location Sketch



KOP Photo No Zoom



(Form 8400-4, Page 3)

KOP Zoomed to Project location



(Form 8400-4, Page 4)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 03/27/2020

District Office: Green River District

Field Office: Price Field office

Land Use Planning Area: San Rafael Swell SRMA

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name Good Water Rim Trail EA	4. KOP Location (T.R.S) T20S R11E Section SENW	5. Location Sketch Located on page 3
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name East Overlook		
3. VRM Class at Project Location II	(Lat. Long) -110.7338 39.1116	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat terrain in the foreground with mountain range partially visible in the background	Irregular, jagged, moderately tall trees in the foreground	Solid, short, and narrow marker post in the foreground. Linear, smooth, primitive road running east to west.
LINE	Broken Horizon in the foreground with partially visible straight horizon in the background	Broken and irregular transitional edge from foreground to background	Weak, banded, horizontal, straight, subtle form with two parallel edges. Bold, regular, straight, vertical, geometric.
COLOR	Browns, reds, and grays	Green, brown, grey.	browns and reds
TEXTURE	Fine to smooth	Course grain, medium density. Uneven/random regularity and high contrast	fine, subtle, and even textures

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	No Change	No Change	Simple triangular roof and cylindrical vent among trees
LINE	No Change	No Change	Weak angular geometric figure among vegetation
COLOR	No Change	No Change	Dull tan and gray
TEXTURE	No Change	No Change	Subtle ordered structure behind dense vegetation

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☒ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES												2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverses side)
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)				
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	
ELEMENTS	FORM				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Additional mitigating measures recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverses side)
	LINE				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	COLOR				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	TEXTURE				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Evaluator's Names: Blake Baker, Myron Jeffs Date: 03/30/2020														

(Continued on Page 2)

(Form 8400-4)

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

The KOP is the main lookout along the east side of the rim near a highly trafficked camping area with several undeveloped sites. The KOP is 90 meters away from the project site. The vegetation, on average, is between 10 and 15 feet tall. The planned CXT vault toilet roof is 9-10 feet tall and vent is 11-13 feet tall, depending on placement. The toilet would be placed approximately 90 meters from the rim edge behind several trees from the KOP. Views from the rim are focused on the canyon below not the campground to the north. It is likely, with the current placement, that the toilet would be difficult to identify if not invisible to the casual observer at this KOP.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

Potentially paint the (typically black) vent stack a natural color that would blend in with the landscape.

East KOP Location Sketch



East KOP



(Form 8400-4, Page 3)